

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
John E. EBY et al.)
)
Continuation App. under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b))
of Appl. No.: 09/287,631)
)
Filed: December 28, 2000)
)
For: SURFACE COVERINGS HAVING)
A NATURAL APPEARANCE AND)
METHODS TO MAKE SURFACE)
COVERINGS HAVING A NATURAL)
APPEARANCE)

Prior Application:

Group Art Unit: 1732

Examiner: A. Kuhn

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application
as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-20 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add the following
new claims 21-32.

-- 21. A floor covering comprising:

a chemically embossed portion; and

a mechanically embossed portion having a mechanical emboss depth,

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22. The floor covering according to claim 21, wherein said chemically embossed portion is substantially free of mechanical embossments.

24. The floor covering according to claim 23, further comprising a design layer.

25. The floor covering of claim 23, wherein said wear layer comprises polyvinyl chloride.

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27. The floor covering of claim 26, wherein said inhibitor is tolyltriazole.
28. The floor covering of claim 21, further comprising a top coat.
29. The floor covering of claim 28, wherein said top coat comprises acrylated urethane.
30. The floor covering of claim 21, further comprising a strengthening layer.
31. The floor covering of claim 24, wherein a portion of said design layer comprises a non-retarder ink composition.
32. The floor covering of claim 24, wherein said mechanically embossed portion has a surface texture intended to provide a natural appearance and said design layer has a design intended to have a natural appearance. --

REMARKS

Claims 21-32 are pending in this application. Claims 1-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request formal examination of this application and allowance of the pending claims at the Examiner's convenience.

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Respectfully submitted,

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